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FEB 02 2007

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application:

Claims 1-6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (new): A computer communications system comprising interface apparatus; said interface apparatus being for interfacing between a first computer system and a second computer system; each said computer system being one of a computer workstation and a computer network; said interface apparatus being characterized by duplex physical transmission line communication with respect to said first computer system, and by single physical transmission line communication with respect to said second computer system; said interface apparatus including a signal generator, a first physical transmission line, and a second physical transmission line; said signal generator being for transmitting simulation signals via said first physical transmission line to said first computer system; said first transmission line being for connecting said first computer system and said signal generator; said second physical transmission line being for connecting said first computer system and said second computer system; said simulation signals being received by said first computer system so as to simulate return signals that would be received by said first computer system from said second computer system if said first computer system and said second computer system were engaging in two-way communication; said simulation signals thereby encouraging said first computer system to transmit information signals via said second

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physical transmission line to said second computer system; said first computer system and said second computer system engaging in one-way communication, via said second physical transmission line, from said first computer system to said second computer system; said second computer system being incapable of transmitting any signals to said first computer system because of the absence of any said physical transmission line, other than said second physical transmission line, that connects said first computer system and said second computer system.

Claim 8 (new): The computer communications system of claim 7, wherein at least one of said first physical transmission line and said second physical transmission line is an optical fiber.

Claim 9 (new): The computer communications system of claim 7, wherein at least one of the following obtains:

said first computer system and said second computer system are each a computer workstation;

said first computer system and said second computer system are each a computer network;

said first computer system is a computer workstation and said second computer system is a computer network;

said first computer system is a computer network and said second computer system is

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a computer workstation.

Claim 10 (new): The computer communications system of claim 9, wherein at least one of said first physical transmission line and said second physical transmission line is an optical fiber.

Claim 11 (new): The computer communications system of claim 7, the computer communications system further comprising a third said computer system, which acts as a ~~proxy for said first computer system; said third computer system gathering information~~ signals, received from said first computer system, that use a connection-oriented protocol; said third computer system converting said information signals that use a connection-oriented protocol to information signals that use a connectionless protocol; said third computer transmitting said information signals that use a connectionless protocol to said second computer system via said second physical transmission line.

Claim 12 (new): The computer communications system of claim 7, the computer communications system further comprising at least one of said first computer system and said second computer system, wherein at least one of the following obtains:

said first computer system and said second computer system are each a computer workstation;

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said first computer system and said second computer system are each a computer network;

said first computer system is a computer workstation and said second computer system is a computer network;

said first computer system is a computer network and said second computer system is a computer workstation.

Claim 13 (new): The computer communications system of claim 12, wherein at least one of said first physical transmission line and said second physical transmission line is an optical fiber.

Claim 14 (new): The computer communications system of claim 12, the computer communications system further comprising a third said computer system that acts as a proxy for said first computer system, said third computer system gathering information signals, received from said first computer system, that use a connection-oriented protocol; said third computer system converting said information signals that use a connection-oriented protocol to information signals that use a connectionless protocol; said third computer transmitting said information signals that use a connectionless protocol to said second computer system via said second physical transmission line.

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Claim 15 (new): The computer communications system of claim 14, wherein at least one of said first physical transmission line and said second physical transmission line is an optical fiber.

Claim 16 (new): A computer communications system comprising interface apparatus, said interface apparatus being for interfacing between a first computer system and a second computer system, each said computer system being one of a computer workstation and a computer network, said interface apparatus being characterized by duplex physical transmission line communication with respect to said first computer system and by single physical transmission line communication with respect to said second computer system, said first computer system and said second computer system engaging in one-way communication via said interface apparatus, said one-way communication being from said first computer system to said second computer system, said interface apparatus including:

a first physical transmission line, for connecting said first computer system and a first signal generator;

a second physical transmission line, for connecting a media converter unit and a second signal generator;

a third physical transmission line, for connecting said first computer system and said media converter unit;

a fourth physical transmission line, for connecting said second computer system and said media converter unit;

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said media converter unit, for receiving first-format information signals via said third physical transmission line from said first computer system, said first-format information signals having a first speed, said media converter unit converting said first-format information signals to second-format information signals, said second-format information signals having a second speed;

said first signal generator, for transmitting first simulation signals via said first physical transmission line to said first computer system, said first simulation signals comporting with said first-format information signals, said first simulation signals being received by said first computer system so as to simulate return signals that would be received by said first computer system if said first computer system and said second computer system were engaging in two-way communication with a separate electronic device, said first simulation signals thereby encouraging said first computer system to transmit said first-format information signals via said third physical transmission line to said media converter unit; and

said second signal generator, for transmitting second simulation signals via said second physical transmission line to said media converter unit, said second simulation signals comporting with said second-format information signals, said second simulation signals being received by said media converter unit so as to simulate return signals that would be received by said media converter unit if said first computer system and said second computer system were engaging in two-way communication with a separate electronic device, said second simulation signals thereby encouraging said media converter unit to transmit said second-format information signals via said fourth physical transmission line to said second computer system;

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wherein said third physical transmission line, said media converter unit, and said fourth physical transmission line together constitute the only communication path between said first computer system and said second computer system, said only communication path enabling said one-way communication from said first computer system to said second computer system, said second computer system being incapable of transmitting any signals to said first computer system due to the absence of any return communication path from said second computer system to said first computer system.

Claim 17 (new): The computer communications system of claim 16, wherein at least one of said first physical transmission line, said second physical transmission line, said third physical transmission line, and said fourth physical transmission line is an optical fiber.

Claim 18 (new): The computer communications system of claim 17, wherein at least one of the following obtains:

said first computer system and said second computer system are each a computer workstation;

said first computer system and said second computer system are each a computer network;

said first computer system is a computer workstation and said second computer system is a computer network;

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said first computer system is a computer network and said second computer system is a computer workstation.

Claim 19 (new): The computer communications system of claim 18, wherein at least one of said first physical transmission line, said second physical transmission line, said third physical transmission line, and said fourth physical transmission line is an optical fiber.

Claim 20 (new): The computer communications system of claim 16, wherein:

said computer communications system further comprise a third said computer system, which acts as a proxy for said first computer system;

said third computer system gathers information signals, received from said first computer system, that use a connection-oriented protocol;

said third computer system converts said information signals that use a connection-oriented protocol to information signals that use a connectionless protocol;

said third computer system transmits said information signals that use a connectionless protocol to said second computer system via said fourth physical transmission line.

Claim 21 (new): The computer communications system of claim 16, the computer communications system further comprising at least one of said first computer system and said

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second computer system, wherein at least one of the following obtains:

said first computer system and said second computer system are each a computer workstation;

said first computer system and said second computer system are each a computer network;

said first computer system is a computer workstation and said second computer system is a computer network;

said first computer system is a computer network and said second computer system is a computer workstation.

Claim 22 (new): The computer communications system of claim 16, the computer communications system further comprising a third said computer system that acts as a proxy for said first computer system, said third computer system gathering information signals, received from said first computer system, that use a connection-oriented protocol; said third computer system converting said information signals that use a connection-oriented protocol to information signals that use a connectionless protocol; said third computer transmitting said information signals that use a connectionless protocol to said second computer system via said second physical transmission line.

Claim 23 (new): The apparatus for interfacing as defined in claim 16, wherein:

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said media converter unit includes a first media converter device and a second media converter device that are connected to each other;

said first computer system and said first media converter device are connected via said third physical transmission line;

said second computer system and said second media converter device are connected via said fourth physical transmission line;

said second signal generator and said second media converter device are connected via said second physical transmission line.

Claim 24 (new): A method for interfacing between a first computer system and a second computer system so as to isolate said first computer system from said second computer system, each said computer system being one of a computer workstation and a computer network, said method comprising:

connecting said first computer system and a signal generator via a first transmission line;

connecting said first computer system and said second computer system via said second transmission line; and

transmitting simulation signals via said first physical transmission line to said first computer system, said transmitting of simulation signals including using a signal generator, said simulation signals being received by said first computer system so as to simulate return

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signals that would be received by said first computer system from said second computer system if said first computer system and said second computer system were engaging in two-way communication, said simulation signals thereby encouraging said first computer system to transmit information signals via said second physical transmission line to said second computer system;

said interfacing being characterized by duplex physical transmission line communication with respect to said first computer system and by single physical transmission line communication with respect to said second computer system, said second physical transmission line constituting the only communication path between said first computer system and said second computer system, said only communication path enabling one-way communication from said first computer system to said second computer system, said second computer system being incapable of transmitting any signals to said first computer system due to the absence of any return communication path from said second computer system to said first computer system.

Claim 25 (new): The method for interfacing of claim 24, the method further comprising connecting a third said computer system to said first computer system so that said third computer system acts as a proxy for said first computer system, said third computer system gathering information signals, received from said first computer system, that use a connection-oriented protocol, said third computer system converting said information signals that use a connection-oriented protocol to information signals that use a connectionless protocol, said third computer transmitting said information signals that use a connectionless

protocol to said second computer system via said second physical transmission line.

Claim 26 (new): The method of claim 24, wherein at least one of the following obtains:

said first computer system and said second computer system are each a computer workstation;

said first computer system and said second computer system are each a computer network;

said first computer system is a computer workstation and said second computer system is a computer network;

said first computer system is a computer network and said second computer system is a computer workstation.